

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A composition for topical application comprising at least one ascorbic acid precursor with the exception of ascorbic acid esters and at least one enzyme that converts said precursor to ascorbic acid, wherein said at least one ascorbic acid precursor is selected from the group consisting of L-galactono-1,4-lactone, L-gulono-1,4-lactone, D-glucorono-1,4-lactone, D-glucuronic acid, D-mannose, D-galacturonic acid, D-glucose, D-galactose, L-galactose, and mixtures thereof, wherein said at least one enzyme is present in a quantity of [0.05% to 30%] 0.1% to 10% by weight with respect to the total composition weight, and wherein said at least one ascorbic acid precursor is present in a quantity of [0.01% to 50%] 0.1% to 10% by weight with respect to the total composition weight.

2-5. Cancelled.

6. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme is selected from the group consisting of L-galactono-1,4-lactone dehydrogenase, L-galactose dehydrogenase, L-sorbose dehydrogenase, L-gulono-1,4-lactone oxidase, and mixtures thereof.

7. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme is L-galactono-1,4-lactone dehydrogenase.

8. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme originates from an extract from plants, animals, insects or from micro-organisms.

9. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme and said at least one precursor are packaged separately.

10. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme and said at least one precursor are packaged in separate compartments.

11. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme and/or said at least one precursor are in an encapsulated form.

12. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme and/or said at least one precursor are in the form of microcapsules or microgranules.

13. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme is in the form of a crude extract, a purified enzyme solution, an enzyme

immobilized on a matrix, in the solid or liquid form, in the liquid or solid freeze-dried form, or included in a controlled release device.

14-17. Cancelled.

18. (Withdrawn) A method for preparing a composition for topical use comprising the steps of (1) separately storing at least one enzyme selected from L-galactono-1,4-lactone dehydrogenase, L-galactose dehydrogenase, L-sorbose dehydrogenase, L-gulono-1,4-lactone oxidase and mixtures thereof, or of an extract comprising said enzyme, and at least one precursor of ascorbic acid, and (2) putting said at least one enzyme into contact with said at least one precursor, whereby upon contact ascorbic acid is formed.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein said enzyme is L-galactono-1,4-lactone dehydrogenase.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18 wherein the preparation is extemporaneous.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the preparation is carried out by bringing the enzyme or plant extract into contact with a substrate.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein said enzyme originates from an extract from plants, animals, insects or from micro-organisms, particularly differentiated or undifferentiated cells obtain *in vivo* or *in vitro*.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18 wherein said substrate is selected from L-galactono-1,4-lactone, L-gulono-1,4-lactone, D-glucorono-1,4-lactone, D-glucuronic acid, D-mannose, D-galacturonic acid, D-glucose, D-galactose, L-galactose or mixtures thereof.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein said substrate is L-galactono-1,4-lactone.

25. (Withdrawn) A method for cosmetic treatment, consisting of applying to the skin a composition for topical application for extemporaneous preparation, comprising ascorbic acid and a suitable support, the ascorbic acid being obtained by bringing at least one ascorbic acid precursor with the exception of ascorbic acid esters into contact with at least one enzyme that is capable of converting said precursor.

26. (Withdrawn) A method for cosmetic treatment of the skin consisting of applying to the skin, either simultaneously or successively, at least one enzyme that can convert an ascorbic acid precursor into ascorbic acid, and at least one ascorbic acid precursor with the exception of its esters.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein at least one enzyme is selected from L-galactone-1,4-lactone dehydrogenase, L-galactose dehydrogenase, L-sorbose dehydrogenase, L-gulono-1,4-lactone oxidase and mixtures thereof.
28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein said enzyme is L-galactono-1,4-lactone dehydrogenase.
29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein said precursor is selected from L-galactono-1,4-lactone, L-gulono-1,4-lactone, D-glucurono-1,4-lactone, D-glucuronic acid, D-mannose, D-galacturonic acid, D-glucose, D-galactose, L-galactose or mixtures thereof.
30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein said precursor is L-galactono-1,4-lactone.
31. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 6, wherein said at least one enzyme and said at least one precursor are packaged separately.
32. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 6, wherein said at least one enzyme and said at least one precursor are packaged in separate compartments.

33. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme originates from *in vivo*- or *in vitro*-obtained differentiated or dedifferentiated cells.

34. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 6, wherein said composition further comprises ascorbic acid.

35. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 13, wherein said matrix is a sol-gel matrix.

36. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising at least one ascorbic acid precursor and at least one enzyme that converts said precursor to ascorbic acid, wherein said at least one ascorbic acid precursor is selected from the group consisting of L-galactono-1,4-lactone, L-gulonono-1,4-lactone, D-glucorono-1,4-lactone, D-glucoronic acid, D-mannose, D-galacturonic acid, D-glucose, D-galactose, L-galactose, and mixtures thereof, wherein said at least one enzyme and said at least one precursor are packaged separately, wherein said at least one enzyme is present in a quantity of [0.05% to 30%] 0.1% to 10% by weight with respect to the total composition weight, and wherein said at least one ascorbic acid precursor is present in a quantity of [0.01% to 50%] 0.1% to 10% by weight with respect to the total composition weight.

37. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising at least one ascorbic acid precursor and at least one enzyme that converts said precursor to ascorbic acid, wherein said at least one ascorbic acid precursor is selected from the group consisting of L-galactono-1,4-lactone, L-gulono-1,4-lactone, D-glucorono-1,4-lactone, D-glucuronic acid, D-mannose, D-galacturonic acid, D-glucose, D-galactose, L-galactose, and mixtures thereof, wherein said at least one enzyme is selected from the group consisting of L-galactono-1,4-lactone dehydrogenase, L-galactose dehydrogenase, L-sorbose dehydrogenase, L-gulono-1,4-lactone oxidase, and mixtures thereof, wherein said at least one enzyme is present in a quantity of [0.05% to 30%] 0.1% to 10% by weight with respect to the total composition weight, and wherein said at least one ascorbic acid precursor is present in a quantity of [0.01% to 50%] 0.1% to 10% by weight with respect to the total composition weight.

38. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 37, wherein said composition further comprises ascorbic acid.